FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCE, &c.

The Musée des Thermes.—*Hôtel de Cluny at Paris.*—The Museum of the Thermæ, the finest relic of the Romans in the French capital, has been of late increased by the addition of a new hall, and decorated with tapestries, which, as well by their spirited composition as by their rich colouring, range amongst the best of this sort of art-works. They are ten in number, of which six are of larger, and four of lesser size; still, even these are too large for the halls of even our largest palaces. They represent scenes of the life of King David, costumed in the fashion of the time of Louis XII. Some think that they conceal some allegory, and that David represents Henry VIII., Bathsheba Anna Boleyn, &c. The name of the artist, according to whose designs these tapestries were woven at Arras in the beginning of the sixteenth century, is not yet properly ascertained. They were made for one of the family of the Spinolas at Genoa, and had remained for many years rolled up on the floor of some stores, until they were purchased by M. de Sommerand for the French Government. The new hall has been erected on the exact space occupied by one in the Roman times, which, however, exhibited a complete state of ruination, as three of its walls were broken down, and only the fourth had remained in a state of comparative preservation. It is through this wall that the hall has been lighted by a semicircular aperture. On this portion of the building but a very slight coat of mortar has been put, and the whole antique character preserved. The large opening has been converted into a balcony, whence the public now view the tapestry on the upper part of its walls. It is arrived at by an antique staircase, carved in oak, and exhibiting the arms and chiffre of Henry IV. It has been brought hither from the Palais de Justice, where novel arrangements had displaced it. This forms now the principal passage from the Thermæ, and the ground-floor of the Hôtel, to the first floor. Thus the building of the Renaissance is brought into immediate contact with the structures of the Roman epoch. The building of the new hall has been undertaken by the architect M. Albert Lenoir, who had its floor covered by an ornamental paving of bricks, the design of which has been made by M. Violet Leduc, after some antique pattern. As the spaces of the Hôtel de Cluny enlarge, M. de Sommerand will exhibit other specimens of mediæval tapestry, of which he possesses, probably, the largest collection in existence.

Mr. Stephenson's Swiss Railway System developed.—The federal Government are actively engaged in the carrying out of a complete system of railroads, for connecting the different cantons and towns of the republic. The following is an outline of the report, which the department of public works will lay before the federal assembly. It proposes the building of the following lines:—

1. A line connecting Basle and the Rhenish railroads, which extends to the great basins of the Aar and its confluents. This line will afford a great outlet for home industry to Germany and adjacent countries.

2. A great central line to follow the broad valley of the Aar in all its extent, from the lakes of the Jura to the embouchures of the Reuss and the Limat. It will then follow the course of the latter stream so far as Zurich, and extend from Zurich on one side to the lake of Constance, and on the other from Solothurn to the lake of Geneva; forming one great transit-line across the whole Swiss territory from N.E. to S.W.

3. A union of this E.W. line with Lucerne for connecting it with the passage of the Gothard, as, on the other side, the basin of the lake of Zurich connects it with the Spluegen and the other passes into the canton of Graubünden.

4. A southern transit line from the banks of the lake of Constance through the large valley of the Upper Rhine as far as the centre of Graubündten, whence it may be extended, hereafter across the Alps in co-operation with foreign countries. From Constance there will be a branch line toward the lakes of Zurich and Wallenstadt.

5. A line connecting Berne, the head quarters of Government, with the main line.

6. A certain number of secondary lines for connecting the principal central towns, which lie away from the main branches of the rails, such as Thun, Winterthur, Schaffhausen, &c.

This vast net of roads extends altogether to the considerable length of 650 kilomètres, and the approximate estimate of cost is 102,100,000 francs. The execution of the works will be carried on under the superintendence of the officers belonging to the federal Government, and the costs divided thus:—one-half will be defrayed by the Government, and the other by the Cantons through which a certain portion of the road passes.

Commission des Monuments, Paris.—By the efforts of this body an interesting antique monument, the Roman triumphal arch at *Saintes*, has been reconstructed. This building was erected A.U. 774. A bridge had been constructed subsequently *over* the arch, and hid it from public sight up to the middle of the arcades. As the bridge was to be demolished on account of its ruinous state, the solidity of the arch became endangered. It was therefore taken to pieces and re-erected a few mètres behind its present position. This work is completed now, and the ornamentation on both sides of the arch is in progress, comprising the fluted Corinthian pilasters with their entablatures, which serve as imposts to the cases of the two doors, the archivolles of the arcades, &c. Above the arcades is an entablature, whose four angles will be adorned with statues on small fluted columns, placed on the angles of the building and on the imposts of the two arches. These columns will project by two-thirds of their diameter, and will be surmounted by a Corinthian cornice ornamented by mouldings. The cornice and the frieze will be without consoles, and the same will be the cornice of the attic. The ornaments of both sides of the arch will not be of the same character. On the side of the Faubourg des Dames there will be two Corinthian columns placed on pedestals, and pilasters of the same order on the pier of the centre, and cornices with mouldings. On each side the frieze of the entablature will be occupied by an inscription, and there will be one on the attic. These three ancient inscriptions, which have suffered much by time, will be restored to their original bearing—at least, so far as the archæologists agree on their meaning.

STAINED GLASS.

In an article on the embellishment of Hereford Cathedral by memorial windows of stained glass, the *Hereford Times* says:—"The forms now proposed for the Bailey testimonials are,—firstly, the filling of the great west window with stained glass, suggested by us a fortnight ago as necessary to complete the restored nave; and, secondly, the completion of the choir, by the erection of a splendid altar reredos, and the filling in of the two side windows at the eastern end with stained glass. Between propositions both so desirable, the committee will probably find it difficult to decide. For our own part we shall rejoice to see either carried into effect. Mr. Cottingham estimates that, for a sum not exceeding 600*l.* he can erect an altar reredos as a screen across the Norman arch at the east end of the choir, and fill in with stained glass the two eastern side windows, the centre window being already fitted. The whole cost will thus not exceed the sum which the Bailey testimonial committee have to expend. For the Merewether memorial, Mr. Cottingham's design is to fill the five beautiful lancet windows of the east end of the Ladye Chapel with the richest painted glass of the style of the thirteenth century. The glass is in hand: all the designs and cartoons are finished; and it is expected that the glass will be all in its place in the window in the course of the present year."——Mr. George Rogers has at length been selected to prepare the Adelaide memorial window at Worcester. The precise piece of work to be done has not yet been decided on.——St. Mary's Church, Stafford, has been embellished with stained glass as a memorial to the late Earl Talbot, lord-lieutenant of the county. The subscription amounted to nearly 800*l.* The stained glass work for the west window was done by Gerente, of Paris, and comprises the chief miracles by our Lord. The ten clerestory windows of the nave, the middle ones on each side, bear the arms and motto of the late Earl, and are the work of Wales, of Newcastle.——A stained glass memorial window has been put up in St. John's Church, Dewsbury Moor, by Mr. Francis Barnett, of York. The artist has not regarded the architectural style of the church itself, but has introduced a window of the decorated period. The central compartment contains the crucifixion, and others the Virgin Mary, St. John, St. Paul, &c. The whole is a gift by a lady whose name is unknown.

ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL WORKS IN IRELAND.

Between Jonesborough and Newry (on the Dublin and Belfast Junction Railway), a distance of six miles and a half, 104,000 cubic yards of earth, and 85,000 cubic yards of rock, have been removed, and about 50,000 remain still to be done. The large embankment at the Monaghan road is more than two-thirds done: about 90,000 cubic yards still remain to be completed: one mile and a half is already finished, and three miles are ready for ballast. All the bridges are executed except that under the Dublin and Belfast turnpike-road, and three others are nearly finished. The culverts on this division are all complete. Two of the piers of the Craigmore viaduct are built up to the impost level, and two more nearly so: the centres are being erected, and the arch sheeting has been commenced.

The Poor-Law Commissioners have determined upon erecting a new workhouse at Ballymahon, according to the drawings prepared by their architect, Mr. Wilkinson, who has issued advertisements for tenders to execute the works.

An extensive model district agricultural school is erecting at Mount Trenchard, and the execution of the works has been contracted for by Mr. Burgess, of Limerick. The drawings were prepared by the architect to the Commissioners of National Education.

The directors of the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway are pressing on the completion of the line. The contract for the portion from Knockwilliam has been disposed of to the Messrs. Elliott and Haslit, of Leeds, and the works are progressing, the contractors being bound to have them complete in six months.

The contractors for the building of military chapel schools in Cork, Limerick, Clonmel, Kilkenny, and Belfast, (lately described in THE BUILDER,) have been declared, and preparations are being made for the immediate completion of the works. The contract for that at Limerick has been given to Mr. Higgins, and the erection is to cost 1,400*l.*

A church is to be built in the parish of Doon, Limerick, and considerable contributions have been received towards defraying the expenses.

The works on the Portadown and Dungannon Railway will soon be in progress. Mr. Wm. Dargan intends taking the line into his own hands.

A new Presbyterian church is to be erected at Queenstown, Cork.

The contract for the erection of a new workhouse at Glyn, county Limerick, has been given to Mr. Paterson, of Dublin. Ten acres of ground have been purchased for a site, and the building will be executed from the drawings of the Poor-Law Commissioners' architect.

The Dublin and Drogheda Railway Company intend erecting a permanent station at Malahide, and tenders have been received for the execution of the works according to plans, &c., by Mr. George Papworth, architect.

The total number of persons employed in the drainage districts, in charge of Mr. Frederick Barry, C. E., for first week in March, amounted to 860 daily.

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